

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on 15 May 1996 at 10:00 a.m. In H-762.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Ms. J. Chegrinec, Secretary; Mr. R. Côté; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Ms. D. Cooper; Prof B. Barbieri; Mr. A. Feldman; Mr. N. Baidoun; Ms. L. Kuilman; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. R. MacIver.

Absent with Regrets: Mr. H. Zarins; Ms. C. Sbrocchi; Mr. S. Zacharias; Ms. L. Prendergast; Ms. C. Hedrich; Ms. K. Hedrich; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Dr. R. Bonin.

Absent: Ms. A. Coombs; Ms. E. Robinson; Mr. D. Ellison; Mr. K. Lowther; Mr. J.F. Plamondon.

Delegates: Ms. Diane Gleason replaced Ms. K. Hedrich.

Guests: Ms. C. Fortier, Student Services Review Committee
Mr. P. Sheanan, Student Services Review Committee

1. Approval of Agenda:

Under item #8 b) Other Business: Mr. Feldman requested that the subsidy for the Job Bank and Off Campus Housing be discussed. On a motion by Mr. Baidoun, seconded by Prof. Barbieri, the agenda was approved with this amendment.

2. Remarks from the Chair:

a) Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the restructuring of the senior administration will be tabled for approval with the Board of Governors this evening. The following changes will impact upon Student Services: a) the position, Associate Vice-Rector, Student Life will be eliminated. The Dean of Students will now become the senior person responsible for Student Services. Dr. Boisvert will fill this position effective 1 September 1996.

b) All current areas, including residences, but with the exception of Recreation & Athletics, will continue to report to the Vice-Rector, Services through the Dean of Students. Effective 1 September Recreation & Athletics will report directly to the Vice-Rector, Services. The decision to implement this change was made by senior administration because of the role this unit will play in the up-coming Capital Campaign. The Vice-Rector, Services will be mandated to take on a leadership role in promoting the unit with the Campaign. For the current year funding for the unit will still be provided by Student Services; parameters on the budget will have to be established for the future. A close working relationship between the unit and Student Services

will continue to exist.

c) The proposal to move the International Students Office to CIAC has been put on hold indefinitely.

d) At this time, Student Accounts will not be moving from Treasury to Financial Aid & Awards.

Mr. Feldman asked for clarification that Recreation & Athletics will remain responsible to CCSL as long as its main funding is received from Student Services.

Dr. Boisvert informed Mr. Feldman that the first two (2) major changes made by senior administration are consistent with the Student Services Review report.

The impact of these changes on Student Services will be discussed further in the fall.

3. Approval of the minutes: Meeting of 29 March, 4 April and 15 April 1996:

Approval was deferred until the next meeting.

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a) **Update on the Writing Assistants' Programme** - Dr. Boisvert was pleased to report that following discussions with Dr. J. Lightstone, Provost and Vice-Rector, Research, that sector would assume responsibility for this programme. It will be in operation by the fall of 1996. With the approval of Council, the Chair will transfer the funds to operate the programme to Dr. Lightstone. The programme will remain in its current form.

b) **Update on Centennial Building move & CCSL motion (attached):** Please refer to the copy of a memorandum to Mr. Feldman which was attached to the minutes of 29 March, 4 April and 15 April. It outlined a commitment from the University to cover expenses for the move from the Centennial.

Mr. Feldman appreciated the commitment. He commented though that the item not addressed yet was the one providing a complete rationale for the closing of the building. Dr. Boisvert responded that a rationale had been given to the CSU president by the Vice-Rector, Services at the last Executive Committee meeting. Basically the University has no choice but to vacate the building due to rapid deterioration of the premises.

Mr. Feldman expressed the concerns of some of the groups that the move is proceeding very slowly. Mr. Côté responded that he had met with Mr. Proulx, Director, Facilities Planning & Development. Feasibility studies are now being done but they may not be ready until mid-June. No group will be asked to vacate the premises prior to there being appropriate space for them to move into.

Mr. Feldman emphasized that if the moves couldn't be made by August they would then have to wait until the Christmas break.

c) Student Life Initiatives Fund: Criteria for Allocation (to be distributed): At the last meeting of Council an allocation of \$47,900 was approved for the fund. This money is not earmarked and Council wanted to discuss and review further the criteria for allocation of the funds. The document was tabled to aid in this discussion.

Mr. Feldman said that some members of Council were of the opinion that the money should be returned to the student groups. He said this proposal seems very similar to the Project Fund and recommended that the following guidelines apply:

IEAC - \$16,000

Job Bank & Off-Campus Housing - \$9,700

Trust - \$5,000 (to help support any student who is adversely affected by the cuts in funding)

Drop Off Day-Care - \$18,000 in trust

The Chair then moved into a Committee of the Whole for discussion with a time-frame of 15 minutes.

Mr. Côté felt that there were unresolved issues still outstanding among the groups from the last meeting. He asked about the use of ACC funds. Dr. Boisvert said that it was his understanding that ACC funds would have been used if needed - but it was decided they were not needed. Mr. Côté asked if the students were asking for disbursement of the total funds. Mr. Feldman responded that there were two funds, and stronger guidelines would be used for special projects. He said that there were some unresolved issues with various groups at the last meeting because more information was needed.

Ms. Kerby reminded Council that the original intent of the fund was to bring greater responsibility to Council. It would examine the historical allocations and decide whether or not these were still viable. The idea of the original funding was never intended to become part of the operating budget of these groups. Also, the intent was to develop a system of accountability. It was never intended to become another Special Project fund. Any group would be

eligible to make a proposal to Council for funding , therefore, the groups mentioned by Mr. Feldman could make a proposal to Council.

Mr. Baidoun said that he had been talking with the IEAC representatives and that they would be more than happy to comply with any restrictions placed upon them by Council. They are more than willing to provide a monthly statement of expenses. Mr. Côté felt the differences between the new Initiatives fund and the Special Project fund needed to be defined.

Mr. Feldman said that his proposal is only for 1996-1997. Each year the groups would make a proposal to Council. In response to Ms. Kerby he said that it was well known that the IEAC used its allocation as an operating budget. It had no other forms of income. The allocation to the Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing would be to cover improvements. The Day-Care would be a one-year trust fund to cover start-up costs of a drop-off center, and provide some seed money. He said that the concern that the initiative money go towards long-term issues is wrong. The ACC money is to be used for long-term issues. He doesn't see the need for two funds.

Mr. Feldman tabled the following motion:

Be It Resolved that CCSL will allocate an additional \$16,000 from the Student Life Initiative Fund to the IEAC.

Be It Further Resolved that the IEAC will be expected to supply a budget report to CCSL on a monthly basis.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Baidoun. Council agreed to discuss the motion.

Ms. Kerby asked that the motion include a clause that requires the IEAC to examine different methods of funding.

The follow additional resolution was proposed by Ms. Kerby:

Be It Further Resolved that the IEAC investigate alternative sources of funding for future years.

Mr. Feldman agreed saying that he believes there is an understanding to examine the current structure. The immediate concern is to acknowledge the situation and not hold up funding. Prof. Barbieri felt that this was an excellent solution. Both Mr. Feldman and Mr. Baidoun agreed. The motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Feldman tabled then tabled the following motion:

Be It Resolved that CCSL allocate an additional \$9,700 from the Student Life Initiative Fund to the Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing.

Dr. Boisvert asked if this item could not be deferred until item #8 b). Mr. Feldman asked that item #8 b) be moved up. He also requested speaking privileges for Mr. L. Pemberton. Both requests were approved by Council.

Dr. Boisvert asked to address this issue. He told Council that 4 to 5 years ago employment services on campus for students was handled by the Canadian Government. Employment Canada wanted to get off university campuses and at that time negotiated with the universities to take over the employment services. The settlement included seed money. The University agreed and the Career Placement Services was established in Counselling and Development. The government money was used to get the service operational. Agreements were entered into with CUSA that CAPS would deal with graduating students and long-term career goals; CUSA Job Bank would be responsible for "survival jobs". In the spirit of this agreement \$20,000 was given to CUSA to upgrade the Job Bank. This upgrade wasn't done. In 1994 a request came from CUSA for additional funding of \$18,000. This was given in good faith with a request that CUSA advise CCSL if the upgrade had been done. The student president at the time gave an unsatisfactory report and Dr. Graub was asked to review if the students were meeting their commitments. Her findings were negative. There was also no accounting for the money which had been given to CUSA for these upgrades.

When Mr. Carruthers took office it was agreed that the subsidy would sit in the Associate Vice-Rector, Services budget until such time as the Student Association could propose a plan to pay back a portion of the allocation.

Dr. Boisvert told Council that he would abide by their decision. Does he turn over the \$20,600 to the CSU to upgrade the Job Bank without any accountability for the \$38,000? It was suggested that it may be advisable to allow either Mr. Pemberton or Mr. Carruthers to address the other side.

Mr. Pemberton listed a series of improvements that have been made to the Job Bank as well as future plans. A full-time person has been hired and is being paid from both CSU and Dr. Boisvert's budget.

Mr Feldman confirmed that many changes had been done already. He then tabled the following motion.

Be It Resolved that the subsidy for the Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing for

1995-1996 be released to CSU.

Council agreed to discuss the motion. Ms. Kerby commended CSU for the work done this year on the Job Bank. She also said that she expected CSU to show some accountability. Dr. Boisvert said that a substantial amount of money was given to CSU in good faith. If he had known the money wasn't to be used he would have recommended it go to CAPS. Mr. Feldman asked if there had been any stipulations on the 1995-96 subsidy. Dr. Boisvert replied that there hadn't been, it had been a regular subsidy. Mr. Feldman then said that he understands there has to be accountability both past and present.

Mr. Carruthers was granted speaking privileges. He continued Mr. Feldman's line of reasoning stating that the system was only as good as the checks and balances installed. The students are frustrated with the lack of continuity and consistency in student government. This year's government has invested \$15,000 in the Job Bank and would agree to a motion that in the next years saw \$25,000 more in improvements.

Mr. Côté suggested another resolution that any group requesting financing should be tabling a line-by-line budget for approval.

Dr. Boisvert felt that it was fair to hold CSU responsible. He had a dilemma about giving funds to an association that didn't meet their commitments.

Mr. Feldman argued that there were several different issues. He agrees with accountability and says that the CSU will be accountable for 1996-97. But he also said to look at 1995-96, CSU met their commitments for this year. The funds have been given three times and it's not reasonable to come back three years later and expect accountability. He argues that mistakes were made on both sides. The bottom line is that in 1995-96 the money has been well spent on the Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing.

Mr. Côté and Prof. Barbieri supported the motion. Ms. Kerby asked if CSU, Job Bank and Housing Service had supplied a budget for 1995-96. Mr. Feldman agreed to do this. She asked that a friendly amendment be made: that CSU provide CCSL with an itemized operating and capital budget.

The first motion was carried.

The second motion reads as follows:

Be It Resolved that an additional \$9,700 be allocated to the CSU Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing for 1996-1997.

Be It Further Resolved that CSU provide CCSL with an itemized capital and operating budget for 1996-1997.

Prof. Barbieri requested clarification on whether the funds were being used for operating . He questioned whether this was the intention and whether or not the initiative fund should be used to support operating costs.

Ms. Kerby asked if CSU had given any consideration to more cost-efficient ways of operating. Dr. Boisvert said that the operations could be absorbed into CAPS and residences. Some initial discussion has already taken place on this idea.

Mr. Carruthers responded that this would be acceptable to CSU if it was a joint venture. Mr. Feldman said that there was perceived to be a different orientation between the two areas. He doesn't believe that Residences would give the same level of service in the Off-Campus Housing area that CSU does. Prof. Barbieri expressed his concern that the Initiative Fund would become an on-going source of operating funds in the long-term. Mr. Feldman agreed with Prof. Barbieri's concerns. He agreed that the funds should not come from the Initiative Fund, but at the same time, he argued, we are dealing with a transitional budget. Changes will be made before the three year budget comes into effective. A temporary solution is being proposed so that the issue can be looked closer at in the fall.

Council agreed to vote and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Feldman then tabled the next motion:

Be It Resolved that \$5,000 be set aside in trust from the Student Life Initiative Fund to subsidize any student at Concordia who is adversely affected by cuts. This trust will be monitored by Financial Aid & Awards.

Be It Further Resolved that \$18,000 plus any monies remaining from the above mentioned \$5,000 be allocate from the Student Life Initiative Fund for seed money for start-up costs associated with the establishment of a drop-off day care centre.

Council agreed to discuss the motion. Prof. Barbieri was told that there would be no legal ramifications in using student's Financial Aid files. Mr. Côté asked what, if any, plans existed for the drop-off centre. Ms. Kerby responded that Dr. Barlow has said it will take time to find appropriate space.

The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

5. Report from Planning & Resources Committee:

No report at this time.

6. Student Life Issues:

Mr. Feldman announced that CSU has adopted a motion to change how members are appointed to CCSL. One member of the executive, to be nominated by the President, will sit on Council, with the remaining 6 members staggered for 2 year terms. Next year's initial appointments are Mr. Feldman, Mr. Baidoun, and Ms. Robinson. They also ask that CCSL have its first meeting in September.

Mr. Feldman said that \$36,000 in student union fees have been frozen. It is his understanding that Mr. Carruthers will be taking this issue to the Board of Governors this evening. Dr. Boisvert responded that CSU owes \$80,000. But M. Bucovy's proposal on how to move this along seems to be acceptable. He is just waiting to hear from the Treasurer and then he will advise Legal Counsel to release the fees.

Mr. Feldman clarified that \$57,000 was owing from CUSAcorp and the agreement was to pay it back over 2 years. The balance is disputed imputation charges.

7. Reports from Directors:

Health Services - Ms Torbit announced that space has been allocated for a nurse at Loyola in the AD building. The renovations to the space on the SGW campus are in progress.

8. New Business:

a) Review of Student Services (to be distributed) - Dr. Boisvert said that he regretted that so few people were present. The report had been finalized and rushed through so it could be tabled at today's meeting. He didn't think that a meaningful discussion could be done today and proposed that the report be brought back for discussion in the fall. He clarified that the report was now a public document. Ms. Cooper asked when the survey would be available and was told that copies could be obtained through the Directors.

Dr. Boisvert asked if Council wanted the Directors to provide appropriate written formal responses. This was agreed to. Mr. Feldman said that CSU would also table its response.

Ms. Torbit said that she had general questions from the staff which they would like to direct towards the review committee members. Dr. Boisvert said that it was his intention to meet with the staff in the individual areas over the summer, along with some of the review members, to answer questions.

Mr. Côté said that he was pleased from his initial reading of the report. Dr. Graub said that she has already started to respond to staff concerns and pave the way for a very constructive review of the document.

Ms. Fortier, a committee members, responded that the report was based on the self-evaluation dossiers. The recommendations were made on more global issues. She also said that consensus on these recommendations didn't happen and presumes that this will be discussed in detail at CCSL in the fall.

Dr. Boisvert said that the review report raises a number of issues that are not in the recommendations. It is hoped that these will be debated and discussed at Council. The Committee is putting issues on the table for CCSL to address.

Dr. Boisvert then formally tabled the review report until the fall. The Directors were mandated to table formal responses for the September meeting.

Mr. Sheanan, another review committee member, asked that it be noted in the minutes, that he extended his compliments to Dr. Boisvert for his excellent job of chairing the Review Committee.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be in September, the Chair wished members a good summer. Members will be advised by J. Chegrinec on dates and locations near mid-August. CSU will provide the names of the remaining students to Ms. Chegrinec in September.

10. Termination of Meeting:

On a motion by Mr. Baidoun, seconded by Mr. Côté, the meeting terminated at 1:00 p.m.